

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:¹

Please amend the specification at page 9, lines 6-12 as follows:

Next, the method for producing a stretched product using the polyoxymethylene copolymer as described above is described. The stretched product of the present invention is obtained by once forming a rod-like or hollow molded article from the polyoxymethylene copolymer as described above and then stretching the molded article under heating, preferably under normal (atmospheric) pressure.

Please amend the specification at page 9, line 23 through page 10, line 10 as follows:

The stretched product of the present invention is obtained by continuously or discontinuously stretching the thus-obtained rod-like or hollow molded article under heating, preferably under normal pressure. A heating method during the stretching is not also particularly limited. A method for passing the molded article through a high-temperature gas or liquid at normal (atmospheric) pressure, a method for bringing the molded article into contact with a heating plate, or the like can be preferably used. Further, a specific stretching method is not also particularly limited. However, an example is a method for stretching the molded article between a plurality of rolls by controlling a speed ratio of the rolls provided in a high-temperature tub to adjust a stretching ratio.

¹ Specification page and line numbers are referenced in terms of the verified English-language translation of the original Japanese language application which was filed on May 10, 2004.

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Please amend the paragraph on page 13, line 17 through page 14, line 1 as follows:

Using the obtained polymer, it was continuously extruded through a die having a nozzle size of 3 mm and at a resin temperature of 200 to 220°C by an extruder at a cylinder preset temperature of 200°C to obtain a rod-like molded article having a circular cross section. This was stretched at a ratio shown in Table 1 in the longitudinal direction and was subjected to heat fixing treatment. The stretching was carried out under normal (atmospheric) pressure in a hot air high-temperature furnace at 150°C by controlling a speed ratio of roll winding and the heat fixing treatment was carried out at 160°C for two seconds.